

purchase land and facilitate the moving of the Odd Fellows Hall to provide for construction of a new courthouse in Salt Lake City, UT.

There are more projects on the list that I have compiled, which will be available on my Senate Web site.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to curb our habit of directing hard-earned taxpayer dollars to locality-specific special interests.

POSTAL SERVICE SORTING PRACTICES IN HAWAII

Mr. DORGAN. I understand that as a result of the closure of our nation's airports and the limitations placed on the carriage of cargo on commercial passenger planes, postal service throughout our country was affected. However, the State of Hawaii was impacted most severely. My colleague from Hawaii, Senator INOUE, has joined me to discuss the situation in Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. I thank Senator DORGAN for the opportunity to share with our colleagues the impact of the air service restrictions on the delivery of mail in the State of Hawaii. The recent closure of our Nation's air transportation system brought to light a Postal Service practice that I believe should be reevaluated. Hawaii is an island State that is not only geographically isolated from the mainland United States, but that is also geographically divided into seven distinct islands separated by the Pacific Ocean. Hawaii has a population dependent on the air transportation system for the movement of goods and people throughout the State. However, I believe the current Postal Service mail sorting procedure has the potential to exacerbate the harm to my State's economy from the airport closures, the reduced inter-island travel, and the decline in travel to and from my State.

The Postal Service in Hawaii has only one centralized sorting office. While I understand that mail service throughout the United States experienced slow-downs and difficulties as a result of the closure of our air transportation system, mail service in Hawaii came to a virtual standstill. The shut down of our airports resulted in the delivery of mail only on the island of Oahu, where the sorting station is located. My constituents on Maui could not mail letters to one another because a letter originating on Maui and addressed to another location on Maui must first be flown to Honolulu for sorting. This hardship was faced by all the residents of Oahu's neighbor islands.

With the threat of war upon us and the possibility of further airport closures, I believe we must study alternatives to the current mail sorting system. The problems faced by the neighbor islands as a result of the airport shutdown are expected to continue as tourism to and within Hawaii declines. Aloha Airlines, one of two island air carriers, has announced a 26-percent re-

duction in flights that will begin next week. Hawaiian Airlines, the other inter-island air carrier has also dramatically reduced its flight schedule. Additional flights will likely be eliminated with the expected continued decline in leisure and business travel.

In light of these flight restrictions, I believe the Postal Service should develop a procedure by which mail that originates on the same island to which it is addressed can be kept and sorted on that island. I realize that this would be only a small step toward addressing the many issues resulting from my State's unique geography, but it would be a start.

Mr. DORGAN. I thank Senator INOUE for sharing with us the difficulties faced by your State. I agree that the Postal Service should examine the feasibility of implementing procedures that take into account Hawaii's unique geography. Please be assured that I will work with the Senator to help in this endeavor.

RETIREMENT OF SHERRY ADKINS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, I am grateful for this opportunity to recognize and pay tribute to Sherry Adkins, who has worked in my Salt Lake City office for 25 years as a Constituent Services Representative. Sherry is retiring after many years of hard work to fulfill her dream of moving to Alaska with her husband Bruce to spend time with her grandchildren.

Sherry's life has epitomized true public service. She literally touched thousands of Utahans' lives by assisting me in helping constituents with problems ranging from Social Security issues to Veterans Administration benefits. Over the years, I have received hundreds of letters from constituents who have praised Sherry's work and expressed their gratitude to me for her assistance.

Sherry has been described as "a valuable resource," "efficient," "courteous," "concerned for others' welfare," and "trustworthy." Many people have been able finally to receive their Medicare benefits, resolve their tax problems, or find their missing Social Security checks, because of her commitment and concern.

Sherry's life has been an example of service. She has always championed the underdog and looked for ways to help others in need. She spent many years volunteering at the Salt Lake City Odyssey House, an organization designed to help men and women overcome the tragic disease of alcoholism. In fact, she even directed the Odyssey House Choir, giving members new hope and experiences, as well as entertaining thousands of people through their music.

I have always known that I could count on Sherry to get her job done, and to do it well. In fact, Sherry's work with me didn't start when I was elected to the U.S. Senate. Sherry and I go back even further. I was privileged

to have Sherry as my personal secretary for a few years while I practiced law in Utah. So, Sherry has been my longest serving staffer, and I will miss her greatly.

It has always been a pleasure to work with Sherry Adkins. I am so grateful to Sherry for her efforts and the service that she has rendered to me, my office, and to all Utahans. I feel blessed to be able to call her a friend. I want to wish Sherry and her husband Bruce the very best that life has to offer in the beautiful land of Alaska. May they find peace and happiness in their retirement years doing the things that they love the most.

ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. JOHNSON. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of Armenia's independence.

On September 21, 1991, the people of Armenia began their journey of freedom and democracy. The road they have travelled over the past 10 years has been full of challenges including natural disasters, conflict in Nagorno Karabagh, and the struggles associated with economic and political transformation. Any of these could have led Armenians off the path of liberty. However, it is through the perseverance of Armenians, and those around the world who support them, that Armenia begins this new century a strong republic and an example for young democracies worldwide.

The events of September 11, 2001, pose a new challenge to Armenians, Americans, and those who reject terrorism and fight the war against fear. In his September 11 letter to President George Bush, Armenian President Robert Kocharyan called on Armenians to confront the "evil of terrorism" with "determination and resolve." At this most critical time, Americans are thankful for Armenia's support, and together, along with a global coalition of freedom-loving nations, we will find the strength and patience to continue our journey.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, today is National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In light of the tragic events of September 11, this day of remembrance and recognition has new meaning. We have spoken about a new kind of "war" but we are not sure what shape it will take. Whatever form, however, it will likely include casualties and perhaps prisoners, these are among the harsh lessons history has taught us. This day gains new meaning, too, when we consider the rescue workers who continue to comb through the war zones at the Pentagon and in lower Manhattan for the bodies of the fallen, the missing, in action.

In time of war, an entire nation unites with a singularity of purpose.